

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-06

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H:KFOLGER

S/S - MR. LUERS

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O R 161621Z MAY 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANAA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USINT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102018

LIMDIS, TOSEC 700 - ZFF4 DAMASCUS ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC YS OREP

SUBJECT: CODEL FINDLEY VISIT TO ADEN

S/S FOR ATHERTON

REF: SANAA 929 (NOTAL), (B) BEIRUT 5201 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF REPORT WRITTEN BY CONGRESSMAN
FINDLEY FROM NOTES TAKEN DURING HIS MAY 2-5 VISIT TO
ADEN. REPORT RATHER THAN MEMCON (REF A), BEING POUCHED.
ITS THRUST IS THAT DESPITE DIFFERENCES PDRY WANTS TO
TALK TO US.

2. PDRY GOVERNMENT PUT CONGRESSMAN UP IN VIP GUEST
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HOUSE, GAVE HIM CAR, DRIVER AND GENERALLY THOROUGHLY

HOSPITABLE RECEPTION. CONGRESSMAN HAD LONG DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS ESCORT, CABINET AFFAIRS MINISTER AL-KHAMIRI, FOREIGN MINISTER MUTI' AND PRESIDENT. WHILE ALL WERE FRANK TO VOICE DIFFERENCES WITH US, FINDLEY BELIEVES THEY ARE INTERESTED IN BETTER RELATIONS WITH U.S. THEY WERE DEFINITELY IMPRESSED BY LETTERS TO CONGRESSMAN FROM THE SECRETARY AND ASST. SEC. ATHERTON EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HIS MISSION (COPIES LETTERS BEING POUCHED).

3. ISSUES: IN RESPONSE FINDLEY QUERY AS TO WHAT ISSUES THERE WERE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, FORN MIN MENTIONED U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AND ALLEGED U.S. INFRINGEMENTS ON PDRY SOVEREIGNTY, CITING ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF US EMBASSY ADEN MILITARY ATTACHE IN RIGHTIST-LED MILITARY UPRISING IN EARLY 1968. DISCUSSING WHAT HE TERMED WERE QUOTE INSULTS UNQUOTE TO PDRY AND ITS SOVEREIGNTY, AL-KHAMIRI (1) REFERRED TO 1968 ATTACHE INCIDENT, (2) CLAIMED THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO SANAA IN JULY 1972, SECRETARY ROGERS HAD PUBLICLY STATED THAT REGIME IN ADEN WOULD NOT LAST TWO YEARS, (3) CLAIMED THAT SHIPS FROM FIVE-VESSEL US TASK FORCE HAD VIOLATED PDRY'S 12 MILE LIMIT AROUND SOCOTRA ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO, AND (4) CITED QUOTE UNFORTUNATE UNQUOTE STATEMENTS MADE BY US SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ABOUT PERIM ISLAND, WHICH HE CLAIMED SUPPORTED ISRAELI POSITION. HE ADDED THAT PDRY OBSERVES DOCTRINE OF INNOCENT PASSAGE AND PERMITS ALL SHIPS TO PASS THROUGH BAB AL-MANDEB. BOTH AL-KHAMIRI AND MUTI' VOICED UNHAPPINESS WITH ALLEGED CONTINUING U.S. SUPPORT OF SAUDI ACTIVITY AGAINST PDRY. MUTI' ADDED QUOTE WE HAVE INFORMATION AND PROOF THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN SAN'A SUPPORTS THE SUBVERSIVE ACTS AGAINST DEMOCRATIC YEMEN....STILL, WE'RE NOT AGAINST DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. WE FAVOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ALL GOVERNMENTS WHICH RESPECT OUR SOVEREIGNTY. UNQUOTE.

4. PRESIDENT ALI ON US/PDRY RELATIONS: DURING ONE-HOUR MEETING MAY 4, PRESIDENT ALI TOLD FINDLEY SOUTH YEMENI PEOPLE FEEL QUOTE MUCH HOSTILITY TO USG. THE PEOPLE BELIEVE ALL SUBVERSIVE ACTS ARE DUE TO US SUPPORT OF

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SUBVERSION. ALL MILITARY EQUIPMENT WE CAPTURE IS US EQUIPMENT, AND THIS MAKES THE PEOPLE FEEL THE US IS BEHIND THE ATTACK....THE US COULD HAVE ADVISED SAUDI ARABIA THAT THE EQUIPMENT WAS NOT TO BE USED AGAINST PDRY. BUT IT DOES NOT UNQUOTE. PRESIDENT WENT ON TO CLAIM THAT IN VISIT LAST MONTH TO MILITARY POST IN FOURTH GOVERNATE NEAR SAUDI BORDER, HE HAD BEEN SHOWN US MILITARY EQUIPMENT CAPTURED AFTER CROSS-BORDER ATTACKS

THE MONTH BEFORE. HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, PDRY HAS QUOTE NO OBJECTION TO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THOSE WHO RESPECT OUR SOVEREIGNTY AND INTEGRITY UNQUOTE. HE SAID HE FAVORED RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND PDRY ONCE GRIEVANCES PERCEIVED BY HIS PEOPLE WERE ELIMINATED. ADEN DOES NOT WISH TO BE ISOLATED FROM US, ALI SAID. HE ADDED THAT A ROLE COULD BE PLAYED BY PDRY'S UN PERMREP AL-ASHTAL IN REACHING COMMON SOLUTIONS WITH US.

5. PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER ON IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH US: FOREIGN MINISTER MUTI' TOLD FINDLEY QUOTE WHILE THE PAST IS NOT GOOD, THE PRESENT LOOKS BETTER. WE ARE LOOKING AHEAD. UNQUOTE. ECONOMIC, TRADE AND CULTURAL RELATIONS WOULD HELP TOWARD ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US IN FUTURE, MUTI' SAID, ADDING QUOTE THIS APPROACH IS NOT NEW. MUCH THE SAME HAS OCCURRED OR IS OCCURRING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ALGERIA AND SYRIA, UNQUOTE. CHANGE IN US ATTITUDE, MUTI' CONTINUED, QUOTE WOULD HAVE TO BE APPARENT IN ACTIONS AND MESSAGES OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS. IT WOULD TAKE A PERIOD OF A FEW MONTHS FOR CHANGE TO BE APPARENT, BUT ADEN WOULD KNOW WHEN IT HAPPENED. WE KNOW WHAT SAN'A IS DOING.... WE KNOW WHAT ELEMENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA ARE DOING. WE WOULD FEEL A CHANGE IN POLICY OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, ONCE U.S. SUPPORT OF SUBVERSION STOPS UNQUOTE.

6. SECOND STEP, MUTI' SAID WOULD BE FOR US - GOVERNMENT OR PEOPLE - TO PROVIDE SOME QUOTE TANGIBLE, PHYSICAL PROOF OF FRIENDSHIP. UNQUOTE. THIS, MUTI' CONTINUED, WOULD HELP WITH MANY ELEMENTS IN ADEN WHO AGAINST RELATIONS WITH US AND QUOTE, IN TIME WOULD LEAD TO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS UNQUOTE.

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7. US INTERESTS SECTION: IN RESPONSE FINDLEY'S PERSONAL SUGGESTION THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF US INTERESTS SECTION WOULD BE USEFUL FIRST STEP TOWARDS BETTER RELATIONS, MUTI' REPEATED THAT FIRST ALLEGED US SUPPORTED SUBVERSION WOULD HAVE TO STOP AND QUOTE SOME AID, PERHAPS FOR HEALTH, IN THE FORM OF WHEAT, OR AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT UNQUOTE WOULD BE NECESSARY. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, PDRY HAD NO OBJECTION TO QUOTE INFORMAL PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS UNQUOTE FOR DISCUSSION WITH USG. HE ADDED QUOTE IT WOULD BE SATISFACTORY FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF USG TO MEET WITH ASHTAL IN NEW YORK, AND AGREEABLE ALSO FOR ASHTAL TO MEET IN WASHINGTON WITH US OFFICIALS ON AN INFORMAL BASIS. UNQUOTE.

8. FOR ATHERTON: CONGRESSMAN WISHES TO CALL ON YOU

UPON YOUR RETURN. HE WANTS TO DISCUSS (A) POSSIBILITY
OF SETTING UP SMALL US INTERESTS SECTION AT ADEN;
(B) WAYS AMERICAN ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED TO ADEN
IN ABSENCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, SUCH AS EXTENSION OF
CCC CREDITS FOR WHEAT SALES TO PDRY, OR PL-480
FOOD ASSISTANCE THROUGH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES; (C) WAYS OF
REDUCING SAUDI USE OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT AGAINST PDRY.
WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT BEST WAY FOR PDRY TO END
POSSIBLE OR ACTUAL PRESSURE ON IT BY ITS NEIGHBORS
WOULD BE TO STOP CHAMPIONING REVOLUTION IN PENINSULA
AND ESPECIALLY TO STOP ITS SUPPORT FOR DHOFAR REBELS.
THIS APPARENTLY NOT TOUCHED ON BY CONGRESSMAN IN HIS
DISCUSSIONS WITH PDRY OFFICIALS. WE NOW RE-DOING ACTION
MEMO ON WHERE WE SHOULD GO FROM HERE REGARDING PDRY. RUSH

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